

It's a small world

Hungarian delegates check out area's safety

By SCOTT CARPENTER

Staff writer

PORT CLINTON — A delegation from Hungary left the Ottawa County Courthouse Tuesday with "Walleye Capital" sweatshirts and a better understanding of American emergency preparedness.

The delegates, guests of the Ohio Adjutant General's Office, toured the Ottawa County Emergency Operations Center in the courthouse basement as part of a

larger tour of emergency facilities in Ohio.

After a welcome from County Commissioner Chris Redfern, Mike Drusbacky, radiological programs coordinator for the county's Emergency Management Agency, gave a presentation through an interpreter on how the county would react to a potential disaster at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station.

The six delegates are members of the Hungarian military

and the civilian protection agency. All were dressed in drab green uniforms, distinguishable only by scarlet or gold shoulder tabs.

They were here to observe how local and state governments, public and private entities and military and civilian agencies in this country work together in the event of natural and man made disasters, said Lt. Col. Ralph Green, military support officer for the Ohio

Army National Guard.

Green, of Columbus, said the concept of military support for civilian authority is new in the former Eastern Bloc nation, where for 45 years the military called the shots.

The Guard's involvement is part of Partnership for Peace, the United States' effort to assist emerging democracies in Eastern Europe in a program similar

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to the Marshall Plan at the end of World War II. Ohio is among National Guards in 20 states to participate in a "military to military" exchange with Hungary as part of the program.

The civilian protection officers, who work for the Ministry of the Interior, would be charged with overseeing the various facets of emergency management in the event of a radiation release at a Hungarian nuclear plant.

In his presentation, Drusbacky discussed how his agency works with similar agencies in neigh-

boring counties and the state and with Toledo Edison, the American Red Cross, local schools, and police and fire departments.

The delegation later toured Davis-Besse before proceeding to a reception at Maumee Bay State Park hosted by Toledo Sister Cities International.

Since arriving Sunday from Budapest, Col. Bela Nagy, Col. Istvan Sztan, Col. Peter Varga, Lt. Col. Jozsef Szabo, Dr. Imre Orszag and Capt. Gylula Bene have visited Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton; Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, and the Ohio Emer-

gency Management Agency. They will attend seminars on security, terrorism, nuclear power, prisons and waste incinerators before departing Saturday.